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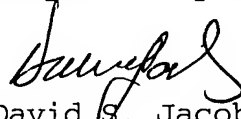
in a plurality of configurations in which the image edge portions of adjacent elements are matched substantially to one another.

REMARKS

Headings and subheadings have been added in accord with standard U.S. practice. An Abstract of the Disclosure has been provided on a separate sheet, as required by U.S. practice. Claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and otherwise place the claims in acceptable form for allowance.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP PARAGRAPHS AND CLAIMS

In the Specification:

Page 11, rewrite the paragraph at line 12, as follows:

The invention will now be further described in a specific embodiment, by way of example only, and with reference to the accompanying drawings[, in which:].

Page 13, rewrite the paragraph at line 1, as follows:

Referring to the drawings, and initially to Figure 1, the children's toy cube building block (generally designated 1) comprises a tubular moulded plastics body 2 having integrally moulded face panels 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d defining a unitary wall around an internal void region. Face panels 2b and 2d are provided with respective two by two arrays of block-to-block connection formations, panel 2b being provided with all-male cylindrical [stud] studs 3 and face panel 2d including a corresponding array of cylindrical recesses 4 (Fig. 2a). The shape, dimension and special configuration of studs 3 and recesses 4 is such that the array of studs 3 on face 2b of first toy building block can matingly engage in releasable push fitting engagement with a complimentary array of recesses for an adjacently connected building block. Similarly, recesses 4 on face panel 2d receive an array of studs on a further adjacently connected building block.

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 13, line 26, as follows:

Referring to Fig. 1, 1a and 2a, a [A] recessed shoulder [4] 14 is provided around each respective open end of the tubular element 2, the recessed shoulder being enlarged at respective corner bosses 5, each of which is provided with a blind bore 6. The upper surface of the shoulders [4] 14 are provided with respective elongate slots 11.

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 14, line 1, as follows:

Referring to Figs. 3a, 3b, 4a and 4b, separate [Separate] end wall panels 7, 8 of moulded plastics construction are provided with integrally moulded pins 9 shaped, dimensioned and configured to matingly engage in push fit connection with respective blind bores 6 provided in the bosses 5 of the recessed shoulder [4] 14. The longitudinal edges of the separate face panels 7, 8 are provided with downwardly extending integrally moulded tabs 12 shaped, dimensioned and configured to matingly engage in push fit connection with respective slots 11 provided in the recessed shoulder [4] 14. When push fit mated into the respective bores 6 and slots 11, the pins 9 and tabs 12 ensure that the respective end face panel 7, 8 is securely (and effectively permanently) secured to the tubular element 2 and effectively closing the hollow interior of the block.

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 15, line 22, as follows:

A further important feature relates to the arrangement and configuration of the male studs 3 and female sockets 4. As shown

most clearly in figure 2b, [The] the studs 3 and sockets 4 on the male and female gender face panels are spaced from one another by a distance of substantially $2x$, where x is the distance between the edge of the panel and the nearest extremity of a respective stud 3 or socket 4. The diameter of respective studs 3 or sockets 4 is substantially $2x$.

In the Claims:

1. (rewritten) [a] A toy building block including:

(a) a first pair of respectively transversely extending face panels provided with male gender connection formation means facilitating connection with respective adjacently arranged blocks, the male gender connection formation means for each face panel comprising at least two substantially identical studs; and

(b) a second pair of respectively transversely extending face panels provided with female gender connection formation means facilitating connection with respective adjacently arranged blocks, the female gender connection formation means for each face panel comprising at least two substantially identical sockets[;]_L wherein[,] the sockets are shaped and dimensioned to be [push-fit/]interference-fit engageable with respective studs on adjacently connecting corresponding blocks, the studs and sockets on the face panels of the block being so spaced and configured to permit connection with opposite gender face panels in a plurality of connection configurations, including a face panel aligned configuration and a face panel overlap configuration.

3. (rewritten) A toy building block according to claim 2, wherein the distance between the extremities of [a stud or socket] an adjacent two of said at least two substantially identical studs [(corresponding to the diameter for circular perimeter formations)] is substantially 2x, and the distance between the extremities of an adjacent two of said at least two substantially identical sockets is substantially 2x.

4. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the outer perimeter of the face panels is substantially square such that the overall configuration of the block is cuboid.

6. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, including face panels moulded of different coloured plastics.

7. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein non-opposed face panels are of substantially the same face area.

8. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein opposed face panels are of substantially the same face area.

9. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein at least one of the faces of the block is without connection formation means.

10. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein a pair of opposed face panels are without connection formation means.

11. (rewritten) A toy building block according to claim 9 [or 10], wherein one or more face panels without connection means are arranged to carry an indicia, design, character or other graphic representation.

12. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein opposed faces of the block are provided with connection formations of opposed gender.

13. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the connection formation means for a respective face comprises an array of formations arranged to mate with a complementary array provided on an adjacently connecting block.

15. (rewritten) A toy building block according to any [preceding claim] 1, wherein [the depth/height] one of the depth dimension and the height dimension of the formations is less than one of a [the] width dimension [(e.g. the diameter)] and a diameter dimension of the respective formation.

16. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the toy building block is substantially hollow.

17. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the face panels are of moulded plastics material, the connection formation means being integrally moulded with the respective faces.

18. (rewritten) A toy building block according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the block comprises a moulded plastics building block comprising a moulded shell element including wall panels moulded to be configured rigidly extending transversely to one another in fixed relationship with a defined angle therebetween, and closure means to close a hollow interior of the block, the closure means including one or more wall panel elements to be connected to the shell element.

19. (rewritten) A toy building construction [system or] kit comprising a plurality of building blocks according to [any preceding] claim 1.

20. (rewritten) A method of manufacturing a toy building block, the method comprising [assembling]:

i) providing a moulded plastics shell element including wall panels moulded to be configured rigidly extending transversely to one another in fixed relationship with a defined angle therebetween; and[,]

ii) assembling a separate wall panel element [connecting] with the walled shell element to close an interior of the block.

22. (rewritten) A method according to claim 21, wherein:

[i)] the moulded shell element is formed having at least one of:

i) male connection formation means on a first face panel and female connection means on a second face panel, and [; and/or]

ii) [the moulded shell element is formed having] connection formation means on opposed face panels.

23. (rewritten) A method according to [any of claims 20 to 22] claim 20, wherein the shell element and the separate end wall panels are provided with complementary engageable securing formations permitting the end face panel to be securely effectively permanently fixed across the shell element.

25. (rewritten) A method according to claim 23 [or claim 24], wherein the complementary engaging securing formations are provided at the periphery of the face panel element and the opening of the shell element.

26. (rewritten) A method according to [any of claims 23 to 25] claim 23, wherein the complementary engaging securing formations comprise at least one of[:]

i) pins arranged to be received in complementary dimensioned bores in a push fit engagement[; and/or], and

ii) tongue and groove like mating elements [(such as a tab receivable in a slot)] extending along one or more edges of the face panel element and shell element.

27. (rewritten) A method according to [any of claims 20 to 26] claim 20, wherein the shell element comprises a substantially tubular element having opposed open ends, each of which is closed by a respective separate end wall panel element.

28. (rewritten) An assemblage comprising a plurality of adjacently connected blocks according to [any of claims 1 to 19] claim 1, respective blocks including respective image elements having commonly coded image edge portions which permit image elements to be positioned in an edge adjacent relationship in a plurality of configurations in which the commonly coded image edge portions of adjacent elements are matched substantially to one another.

32. (rewritten) An assemblage according to [any of claims 30 or 31] claim 30, wherein a respective image element comprises upper and lower edges and two side edges such that the image element is substantially rectangular or square, the image elements being provided with first and second opposed edges of a first common

image coding and third and fourth edges of a second common image coding.

34. (rewritten) An assemblage according to [any of claims 30 to 33] claim 30, wherein the coded image element edge portions are colour coded by means of coloured edge zones.

36. (rewritten) A toy building construction kit or set comprising:

i) a plurality of a toy building blocks including face panels [(preferably substantially perpendicular face panels)] provided with connection formation means facilitating connection with an adjacently arranged blocks; and,

ii) a plurality of image elements for mounting on substantially planar faces of respective blocks, the image elements having commonly coded image edge portions permitting image element carrying blocks to be positioned in an edge adjacent relationship in a plurality of configurations in which the image edge portions of adjacent elements are matched substantially to one another.